



ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

Jeff Fleetham, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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Unlicensed Sierra Vista Man Pleads Guilty

PHOENIX, Ariz., (April 19, 2018) – On Tuesday, April 17, 2018, Ernesto De La Cruz, 43 of Sierra Vista, pled guilty to Contracting Without a License, a class 1 misdemeanor and was sentenced to pay \$12,045 in restitution and \$1,875 in fines.

The charges stem from an AZ ROC case in which investigators found that De La Cruz contracted for the amount of \$9,480 and was paid \$4,740 for a concrete project that resulted in poor workmanship.

De La Cruz has never been a licensed contractor in the state of Arizona and has been the subject of four prior AZ ROC investigations since 2013. Two of these prior investigations were submitted for prosecution and together resulted in De La Cruz pleading guilty to Contracting Without a License. In the third investigation, charges weren't filed as De La Cruz had a licensed contractor correct the poor work and the property owner requested the ROC close the case.



Photo Source: Cochise County Sheriff's

In both of the most recent investigations, De La Cruz presented himself to be working “under” a friend’s AZ ROC license. AZ ROC licenses are non-transferable, however, and AZ ROC reminds the public that it is not possible to “work under” another individual or entity’s license without being an actual employee of that entity.

Before hiring a contractor, verify the person negotiating the job is an authorized representative of the licensed contractor by calling the contractor’s number listed on the ROC license record, which can be found on the ROC website or by giving the Agency a call.

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